

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Veterans Affairs

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation

3b. GSA Committee No.

48

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

09/25/2017

6. Expected Renewal Date

09/25/2019

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

38 U.S.C. 3121

13. Effective Date

10/01/1980

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

1

16b. Report Date Report Title

10/01/2017 Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation Annual Report

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a. Open 3 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 3

Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
To assess the rehabilitation needs of Veterans and review how effectively Veterans' needs are met by programs in the VA.	01/04/2018	01/04/2018
To assess the rehabilitation needs of Veterans and review how effectively Veterans' needs are met by programs in the VA.	05/07/2018	05/08/2018
To assess the rehabilitation needs of Veterans and review how effectively Veterans' needs are met by programs in the VA.	08/28/2018	08/29/2018

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 3

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$30,666.00	\$30,666.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00

18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
18d. Total	\$70,666.00	\$70,666.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.30	0.30

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Committee is in alignment with VA Strategic Goals, whereby the Committee assesses the rehabilitation needs of Veterans with disabilities and reviews the programs and activities within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that are designed to meet those needs. The May meeting was in alignment with goal #1, which focused on the committees continued assessment of programs aimed at providing Veterans with more timely services, easy access, and more simplified information that is easier to understand, to assist Veterans in making informed decisions about their VA benefits. The August meeting was in alignment with goal #4 which focused on modernizing systems and resources to be more competitive. Specifically, the Committee was informed on the VA Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 which aims to reduce the process time of making every day business decisions. An annual report is prepared each calendar year offering recommendations to the Secretary concerning the administration of Veterans' Rehabilitation Programs under Title 38, United States Code. The Secretary takes such reports under advisement and includes them in his annual report to Congress.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Committee is comprised of members with diverse professional and personal qualifications: experience in military service, military deployments, working with Veterans, Committee subject matter expertise, and working in large and complex organizations. The Committee also represents diversity in race/ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, and geographical background. A reasonable effort has been made to appoint candidates who work in the areas of rehabilitation medicine, vocational guidance, vocational rehabilitation, employment, and training. The Committee includes Veterans with disabilities, some of whom were severely injured in Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Committee also includes disabled female Veterans and a disabled Veteran who is also a National Service Organization Officer. The diversity of the Committee is highly valued. The committee demographics are representative of the target population they serve. This helps the Committee identify the needs of a diverse Veteran population.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Committee meets a minimum of two times per year. The meetings provide briefings

on VA (and other) rehabilitation related programs and innovative services for Veterans with disabilities. The Committee members are provided with relevant and detailed information on trends in rehabilitation, current disability issues and VA Rehabilitation Programs.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

VA has no other method of obtaining this level of expertise on rehabilitation issues. The Committee is able to cross divisional boundaries and examine how Veterans Health Administration and Veterans Benefits Administration operate in providing rehabilitation services. The Committee can point out duplication of services, communication issues, and suggest improvements in service delivery between various VA components without bias or motivation for professional gain. Additionally, the Committee is comprised of individuals with diverse, extensive, and nationally recognized knowledge of rehabilitation that allows them to bring to the Secretary's attention general trends and state-of-the art practices in the rehabilitation field. This type of expertise is particularly useful in recommending solutions to some of VA's challenges in meeting the rehabilitation needs of Veterans with disabilities.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

The Committee meetings are open to the public. However, partially closed committee meetings have been conducted when topics discussed could disclose information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Therefore, closing the meeting would be in compliance with 5 U.S.C. 552b (c) (6).

21. Remarks

VR&E Service recommends that the Committee continue its mission to ensure that the needs of Veterans with disabilities are addressed in A's policies, benefits and services. The Committee's recommendations are instrumental in helping VA maintain awareness of the needs encountered by Veterans with disabilities.

Designated Federal Officer

Sabrina McNeil Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Brown, Alicia	06/07/2016	08/31/2018	U.S Navy Disabled Veteran	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Brown, Karen	06/07/2016	08/31/2019	Certified Rehabilitation Counselor	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Caplan, Leslie	06/07/2016	08/31/2019	U.S Department of Health and Human Services	Ex Officio Member
Cunningham, Darrick	09/25/2017	09/25/2018	Disabled Veteran	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Dale, Zoe	06/07/2016	08/31/2019	Licensed Professional Counselor	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Elliot, Jerry	06/07/2016	08/31/2019	U.S Department of Education	Ex Officio Member
Ficca, John	09/25/2017	09/25/2018	Disabled Veteran	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Flowers-Jones, Eleanor	06/07/2016	08/31/2019	U.S Navy Disabled Veteran	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Garcia, Jorge	06/07/2016	08/31/2019	George Washington University, Professor of Rehabilitation Counseling	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hergenrather, Kenneth	09/25/2017	09/25/2018	Certified Rehabilitation Counselor	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kimmatt, Emily	09/25/2017	09/25/2018	Disabled Veteran	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Metheny, William	06/07/2016	08/31/2019	U.S Department of Labor	Ex Officio Member
Pandac, Leonardo	06/07/2016	08/31/2019	Program Director of Pacific Asian Alcohol and Drug Program (PAADP)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Pruitt, Antonio	06/07/2016	08/31/2019	Physical Therapist, DPT	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Reaves, Stephen	09/25/2017	09/25/2018	Disabled Veteran	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Rio, John	06/07/2016	08/31/2019	Senior Program Associate for National Veterans Technical Assistance Center	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Santiago, Danish	06/07/2016	08/31/2018	U.S. Airforce Disabled Veteran	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Siu, Frances	09/25/2017	09/25/2018	Certified Rehabilitation Counselor	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Streitberger, William	08/27/2018	09/25/2018	Director of Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service	Ex Officio Member
Trimarchi, Scott	06/07/2016	08/31/2019	Disabled American Veterans, National Service Officer	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
West-Evans, Kathy	06/07/2016	08/31/2019	Certified Rehabilitation Counselor	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Williams, Michael	09/25/2017	09/25/2018	U.S Department of Health and Human Services	Ex Officio Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 22

Narrative Description

The Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation has the charge to assess the rehabilitation needs of Veterans with disabilities and to address those needs holistically. This Committee may meet the mission of the agency to serve the needs of the Veteran and his family. The first VA strategic goal states that the VA shall restore the capability of Veterans with disabilities to the greatest extent possible and improve the quality of their lives and that of their families. The work of the Committee is to improve the administration of services to Veterans with disabilities.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety

☐

Trust in government

☒

Major policy changes

☐

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Advance in scientific research | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Effective grant making | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Improved service delivery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Increased customer satisfaction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unable to Determine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Over \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cost Savings Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

41

Number of Recommendations Comments

This is a total of recommendations for FY 2003 through FY 2018.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

78%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

NA

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

20%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

NA

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The Department responds in writing to all Committee recommendations.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Publications



Other



Access Comments

N/A